United Nations A/AC.109/2121

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 June 1998

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Pacific regional seminar to review the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their political evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998

Rapporteur: Dr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–7	3
II.	Organization of the seminar	8–12	3
III.	Conduct of the seminar	13–32	5
	A. Proceedings of the seminar	13–17	5
	B. Summary of statements and discussions	18–32	5
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	33–35	8

Annexes

I.	Statement made by the Honourable Major-General Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji, on 16 June 1998	11
II.	Statement made by Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, on 16 June 1998	13
III.	Message from the Secretary-General to the seminar	16

98-19645 (E) 280998

IV. Statement made by the Honourable Berenado Vunibobo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Republic of Fiji, on 18 June 1998 17

V. List of participants 19

VI. Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji 22

I. Introduction

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which read in part as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> ...
>
> "1. *Declares* the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
>
> "2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

2. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1) "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism". In the Plan of Action, the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Special Committee

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts".[1]

3. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991, calling for coordinated assistance of the specialized agencies to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that:

> "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, ... weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

4. In its resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997, the General Assembly approved the report of the Special Committee,[2] which *inter alia* called for the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region, to be organized by the Committee, in 1998.

5. As stated in its guidelines and rules of procedure (A/AC.109/2101 and Corr.1), the purpose of the seminar was to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their constitutional evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000. The seminar was also to identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the political and sustainable development of the Territories concerned.

6. The topics considered by the seminar will assist the Special Committee in a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It secured the participation of organizations and institutions that were actively involved in the political, economic and social development of these Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

7. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which will assist the Special Committee in its consideration of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during its 1998 session.

II. Organization of the seminar

8. The seminar was held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998.

9. The seminar consisted of six meetings, in which representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, States Members of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations, eminent persons invited as special guests and an observer took part. The list of participants is contained in annex III to the present report.

10. The seminar was conducted by His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Permanent Representative of Cuba

to the United Nations and Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Syrian Arab Republic.

11. At the 1st meeting, on 16 June 1998, the following representatives were appointed as officers of the seminar: Mr. Jimmy Ovia (Papua New Guinea) as Vice-Chairman, Dr. Fayssal Mekdad as Rapporteur and His Excellency Dr. Patrick A. Lewis (Antigua and Barbuda) as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee was composed of all the members of the delegation of the Special Committee to the seminar.

12. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Political issues

(a) Enhancing the attainment of the right to self-determination by the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) Options of self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960, respectively:

(i) Independent statehood;

(ii) Free association with an independent State;

(iii) Integration with an independent State;

(c) Constitutional developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to assist their peoples to attain their right to self-determination.

2. Economic and social issues

(a) Economic and social development in the small island Territories and their impact on the realization of the right to self-determination;

(b) Constraints faced by and development options available to the small island Territories;

(c) The problems of small, structurally open economies: heavy dependence on imports, a limited number of commodities and highly restricted internal markets;

(d) Food production: development of small-scale agricultural activities and of fisheries;

(e) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors and on the environment;

(f) The issue of drug trafficking and money-laundering;

(g) Development of financial management expertise and of skills necessary to negotiate and manage foreign investments; gaining access to adequate information systems;

(h) Development of industries and of indigenous technological capacities, and manufacturing for export;

(i) Human resource development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(j) Implications for the island Territories of issues pertaining to the environment and to development, such as global warming, rise in sea level, sustainable development and Agenda 21;

(k) International and regional cooperation in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters: provision of assistance and coordination of relief preparedness and prevention;

(l) Role of the specialized agencies, international organizations and regional organizations in the economic and social development of the Territories;

(m) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with a view to identifying areas in which technical and other assistance could be provided;

(n) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening both by the Territories concerned and by international agencies: preservation and protection of marine resources from over-exploitation; sea and air transport; disaster preparedness and relief; higher education; research and development; and regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise;

(o) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) Impact of international conferences (namely, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, 1995, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995) on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

III. Conduct of the seminar

A. Proceedings of the seminar

13. On 16 June, at an official opening ceremony, the Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, addressed the seminar. His address is reproduced *in extenso* in annex I to the present report.

14. At the same ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, made a statement, which is reproduced in annex II.

15. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme in Fiji read a message from the Secretary-General to the seminar which is reproduced in annex III.

16. Following the opening ceremony, the seminar was called to order at 11 a.m. to organize its work and commence discussion.

17. At its 6th meeting, on 18 June, the seminar heard a statement by the Honourable Berenado Vunibobo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji. The statement is reproduced in full in annex IV. The Chairman also made a concluding statement.

B. Summary of statements and discussions

Member States

18. The representative of *Argentina* declared that the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) affected the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. She recalled that, in their resolutions, the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization requested that the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Territory was to be solved by peaceful negotiations, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the islands. She affirmed that Argentina had repeatedly expressed its determination to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom and to respect the style of life and interests of the inhabitants of the islands. She further stated that the existence of the dispute ruled out self-determination, since United Nations principles could not lead to the acceptance of the fact that British subjects on the islands make a decision on the territorial dispute to which their country was a party. If so, the colonial Power would benefit with the reaffirmation of its previous illegitimate act. The Argentine representative declared that her country had never been a colonial Power and had no intention of becoming one. She stressed her country's commitment to discuss all differences and to analyse every scheme that could promote a final solution to the controversy.

19. The representative of *Spain* highlighted the historical background of the problem between his country and the United Kingdom on Gibraltar. He reaffirmed the validity of the Treaty of Utrecht to the question of Gibraltar, and said that the Treaty clearly stipulated that Gibraltar could be either British or Spanish and that no other options were available for its further status. Furthermore, he said that several resolutions of the General Assembly had stated that in the Gibraltar case decolonization would be reached through the recovery of the full territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Spain. He said that the local authorities of the colony were not participating in the Brussels process of negotiations and were not implementing agreements already reached on the common use of Gibraltar's airport and the operation of a ferryboat between the town of Algeciras and Gibraltar.

20. The representative of *Indonesia* stated that the inability of Portugal to play a constructive role in the decolonization of East Timor in 1975 had resulted in the destruction of the lives of the East Timorese people. He also expressed the view that the process of the decolonization of East Timor had been interrupted because of Portugal's abandonment of the Territory in which it had allowed the situation to deteriorate. The people of East Timor had exercised their right to self-determination in 1976, having chosen integration with Indonesia, which had been subsequently promulgated as an Indonesia Constitutional Law 7/76 (1976). The people of East Timor had reaffirmed their decision by participating in all aspects of life, including the political field, and in the general elections of 1982, 1987, 1992 and 1997. He underlined that the question of East Timor was a non-issue. Portugal had refused all appeals by Indonesia to reach a solution of the question of East Timor. The representative of Indonesia added that his Government was committed to enhancing the well-being of the territorial population and would support the efforts of the Secretary-General in seeking a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor. The Indonesian Government was committed to supporting and participating in the tripartite dialogue under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

21. The representative of *Portugal* reiterated his Government's responsibility towards the people of East Timor, as well as its commitment to the right to self-determination for the East Timorese. He drew attention to

the serious human rights violations in East Timor, which were preventing the East Timorese from exercising freely the right to self-determination. He expressed the hope that recent political changes in Indonesia would translate into willingness on the part of Indonesia to find a just, comprehensive, and internationally accepted settlement of the question of East Timor.

22. The representative of *New Zealand* spoke about the innovative approach being taken by the people of Tokelau and their administering Power, New Zealand, to the development of self-government in Tokelau and to investigation of the possibilities for a constructive evolution of Tokelau's constitutional relationship with New Zealand. The Tokelau example, he added, underlined the importance of attending to matters of process in contemporary decolonization.

Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

23. The representative of the *Governor of Guam* said that, in 1987, the people of Guam approved by referendum the Guam Draft Commonwealth Act and subsequently transmitted the Act to the Congress of the United States of America for approval. The Guam Draft Commonwealth Act would create an interim/transitional self-government, and actualized a decolonization process through an exercise of Chamorro self-determination. To date, no progress has been made in gaining United States approval for the Act, despite 10 years of exhaustive discussions between the Government of Guam and the United States executive and legislative branches. The United States had not accepted any proposal for decolonization in Guam. He emphasized the negative impact of United States immigration policies on the native Chamorro inhabitants of Guam, particularly with regard to immigration to Guam since 1990. In January 1997, the Guam legislature by law established the Guam Commission on Decolonization and mandated a plebiscite on the choice of political status in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. The mandated plebiscite would be conducted either in late 1999 or early in the year 2000. In his statement, the representative of the *Commission on Decolonization* of Guam provided information concerning its establishment by Guam law, the intentions of the law, the Commission's organization, mandates and foreseen process towards the self-determination plebiscite of the colonized Chamorro people, in addition to providing immigration statistics, the administering Power's attempts to include settlers and immigrants in the self-determination process, and the inaction of the administering Power to establish a process for decolonization which led to the establishment of the Commission.

24. The representatives of the *National Council of Timorese Resistance* stated that the people of East Timor had never been given the opportunity to decide their future, contrary to the claims of Indonesia's authorities. The East Timor issue had gone beyond all expectations and was now essentially an issue that concerned the whole international community. It was an issue that touched the conscience of all peoples who placed human respectability above all, and Governments who adhered to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They requested the Committee to consider seriously the setting up of a special working group on development for East Timor, the aim of which would be to monitor and prepare the right conditions to enhance the process of self-determination for the people of East Timor. A precedent existed for this formula, as in the case of Namibia, which had benefited from the work of international agencies under the auspices of the United Nations prior to and even after acquiring its independence. The representatives also requested that the Committee activate an appropriate mechanism to monitor the influx of Indonesian illegal migrants into East Timor.

25. The representative of the *Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands* stated that the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) had achieved most of the goals set by the Special Committee. The Islanders had the right to self-determination enshrined in their Constitution, and the Territory had enjoyed 155 years of peaceful democracy, interrupted briefly in 1982, when the Republic of Argentina chose to invade the Islands. The Islanders had a free association with an independent State, namely, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which, apart from defence and foreign policy, amounted to self-government. The United Kingdom recognized the Islanders' right to self-determination; Argentina did not. The representative said that the United Kingdom had discovered, named, officially claimed and established a settlement in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) many years before the Republic of Argentina ever existed.

26. The Minister of State for External Affairs of the territorial Government of the *United States Virgin Islands* expressed concern for recent actions, such as the deletion of long-standing principles of self-determination from decolonization resolutions, and the failure to undertake the important analyses called for in the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He indicated that the recommendations of the seven decolonization seminars since 1990 served as a blueprint for the United Nations in assisting the Territories, but that these

provisions had to be implemented in order to be successful. He called for the Special Committee to adopt, rather than merely take note of, the report of the present seminar, and for the report to be sent to the General Assembly. He expressed support for those political options which conformed to the principles of equality, as defined in resolution 1541 (XV), for participation of the Territories in United Nations economic and technical programmes and organizations, and for the consideration of the economic advancement of the Territories in the Second Committee and in the Economic and Social Council. He also called for the change of the name, but not the mandate of the Committee, to reinforce United Nations support for the three options contained in resolution 1541 (XV). He suggested that the issue of devolution of power to the elected Governments of the Territories was key to the successful transition of the small island Territories from dependency to self-government and that United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), should address this issue in its programmes.

27. The President of the *Front de liberation nationale kanak et socialiste* (FLNKS) stated that the United Nations should watch closely and keep under review the process unfolding in New Caledonia, as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord, either by extending the mandate of the Special Committee beyond the year 2000 or by considering the possibility of granting New Caledonia observer status during the 15 to 20 year transition period. He emphasized that, according to the Nouméa Accord and Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, France as the administering Power should transmit to the United Nations all information regarding the political, economic and social situation in New Caledonia. Furthermore, the United Nations should be requested to supervise the holding of the referendum of ratification of the Nouméa Accord and the implementation of the Accord through general elections in April/May 1999.

28. In his statement, the *Governor of American Samoa* applauded the mandate given by the General Assembly to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000 and expressed his appreciation for the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa. He then pointed out that American Samoa was prosperous and healthy in economic and social terms. He emphasized that American Samoa did not need United Nations assistance to become decolonized because it did not consider itself a colony of the United States. American Samoans still owned their lands, had their own constitution, elected their own public officers and were represented in the United States Congress. Furthermore, he maintained they controlled their own customs and immigration and their own borders. The Governor also spoke about the two plebiscites in which the American Samoan people had expressed their wish to remain an integral part of the United States. The Governor extended an invitation to the Special Committee to visit American Samoa.

Non-governmental organizations

29. All representatives of non-governmental organizations reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations decolonization programme and stated that, in the process of decolonization, there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination. They emphasized that the process of decolonization was not over, but that it had entered its final stage and that the Special Committee should continue to implement new and innovative approaches to the discharge of its mandate. Furthermore, they emphasized the need for the Special Committee to continue its work until the total eradication of colonialism had been achieved.

30. The representatives of many non-governmental organizations expressed the view that the decolonization process should be expanded to deal with the devastating effects of nuclearization, militarism and economic globalization on the colonized peoples and their social environment. Several non-governmental organizations demanded that the United Nations provide assistance to the women in the colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories as stipulated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in September 1995.

31. The representatives of the non-governmental organizations emphasized the danger of the immigration policies of some of the administering Powers, particularly in regard to Guam and New Caledonia. Those policies had resulted in changing the demographic composition of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and had led to the indigenous populations becoming minorities in their homelands. They also demanded that the administering Powers not affect the demographic composition of the Territories under their administration as a result of immigration or the displacement of the peoples of the Territories.

Experts

32. The experts presented their papers dealing with questions of the historic precedents of self-determination of small island Territories and discussed the applicability of those precedents to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The experts discussed in detail the political, economic and social development in the Non-Self-Governing

Territories with particular emphasis on constitutional and political evolution of the Territories towards self-determination and the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000, a goal set by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Plan of Action aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free of colonialism.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

33. At its 6th meeting, held on 18 June 1998, the seminar considered its report and the draft conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

34. The seminar concluded that:

1. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is not yet complete as long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories that still have to exercise their right to self-determination;

2. In the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. The United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization;

4. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major political programme of the United Nations and, therefore, Member States need to remain vigilant against all attempts to limit, jeopardize or eliminate its activities on the grounds of administrative reforms or by means of financial mechanisms;

5. In the present stage of global developments, there is a need for identifying and implementing innovative practical and pragmatic approaches in the search for a specific solution to each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the populations concerned and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

6. Specific characteristics of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should in no way prevent their populations from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

7. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV); the issue of the devolution of power to the elected Governments of the Territories is a key element in the transition from dependency to full self-government, and UNDP and other relevant United Nations bodies should be requested to include these issues in their governance since many Non-Self-Governing Territories are eligible for UNDP assistance;

8. The views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be ascertained through legitimate acts of self-determination under the supervision of the United Nations;

9. Continued examination of the spectrum of options of self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Plan of Action;

10. Access by Non-Self-Governing Territories to relevant United Nations programmes in the economic and social sphere, including those emanating from the plans of action of United Nations world conferences, is in furtherance of capacity-building and consistent with necessary preparations for the assumption of full internal self-government;

11. The Special Committee should take note of the report of the present seminar, with the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and they should be sent to the Fourth Committee for consideration, and a report on the implementation of decolonization resolutions since the approval of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be prepared by the United Nations;

12. The decolonization period is not over, but rather requires unique remedies in protecting the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and, in particular, those small island

Territories which require special consideration as a result of the vulnerabilities that they share with other small island developing countries in their regions;

13. While the international community must remain flexible in its approach to assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their constitutional advancement, any dependency models which have not achieved a full of measure of self-government based on the principles of equality, in conformity with the acceptable choices contained in General Assembly resolution 1541(XV), should not be considered fully self-governing, in order to avoid legitimizing the current non-self-governing arrangements;

14. All efforts should be made by Member States, when presenting draft resolutions on decolonization to the General Assembly, to consider the views of the people of the Territories concerned;

15. The United Nations, in cooperation with regional organizations, should facilitate completion of the several studies and analyses called for in the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, but not yet undertaken, in particular the "review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the (Decolonization) Declaration in each Territory" and other relevant studies on the economic, social and political development in these Territories;

16. The Secretariat of the United Nations and, in particular, the Department of Public Information should disseminate information on the activities of the United Nations on decolonization, by all available means, including through the Internet.

17. United Nations information centres should be directed to disseminate information on decolonization to the Territories and to the administering Powers;

18. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom, aiming at finding a solution to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and taking into consideration the interest of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

19. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the ongoing negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Spain within the Brussels process, aiming at achieving a solution to the question of Gibraltar in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

20. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia to continue their efforts, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor; to support the all-inclusive intra-East Timorese dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations; and to support the efforts of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for East Timor aimed at giving a new impetus to the Secretary-General's good offices;

21. The seminar recognizes the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia, mainly the signing of the Nouméa Accord on 5 May 1998 between representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France; the United Nations should watch closely and keep under review the process unfolding in New Caledonia, as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord. New Caledonia should be entitled, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord, to become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, according to their regulations (international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, etc.). In the interim, New Caledonia should remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

22. France as the administering Power should be called upon to transmit to the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation in New Caledonia;

23. The United Nations should be requested to supervise the holding of the referendum on ratification of the Nouméa Accord and its implementation through general elections in April/May 1999;

24. The seminar noted the invitation extended by American Samoa to the Special Committee to visit the Territory and recommended that the Committee consider the matter in connection with its programme of work;

25. The Special Committee should call upon the administering Power to cooperate with Guam's

Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in order to facilitate Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of progress to that end;

26. The United Nations should remind the administering Powers for Guam and New Caledonia to take steps to control immigration and the influx of settlers to prevent the dilution of power for the Chamorros and Kanaks;

27. The General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization should examine the possibility of convening a United Nations world conference on decolonization and the right to self-determination before the end of the decade;

28. The Special Committee is strongly urged to consider the issue of self-determination broadly and not to look only at political independence, but also at matters relating to cultural identity, language and tradition;

29. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women should be invited to visit all Non-Self-Governing Territories and to examine the main gender specific violations perpetrated in those Territories;

30. It must be understood that, as long as there are Territories that are not independent, freely associated or an integral part of another State by their own choice, the inalienable right of the peoples of these Territories must be guaranteed by an independent broker. The United Nations and its Special Committee on Decolonization must continue to function in this capacity until the status of all Non-Self-Governing Territories dictates that this chapter of the history of the world be closed once and for all;

31. The seminar noted with satisfaction the positive constitutional developments that had occurred in the Territory of Tokelau. The relationship between Tokelau and its administering Power, New Zealand, had been conducive to the increased level of internal self-government and enactment of the territorial legislation, bringing the people of Tokelau closer to the exercise of the right of self-determination;

32. The Special Committee should note with satisfaction the active participation in the seminar of New Zealand and Portugal in their capacity as administering Powers, and call upon other administering Powers to do likewise;

33. The Special Committee should express its appreciation to Argentina, Australia, Malaysia and Spain for their active participation in the seminar and encourage other Member States to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee;

34. The seminar reiterated the validity of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the previous regional seminars held in Barbados (1990), Vanuatu (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993 and 1996), Trinidad and Tobago (1995) and Antigua and Barbuda (1997).

35. At the same meeting, the participants adopted a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji (see annex VI).

Notes

[1] A/46/634/Rev.1, annex, paras. 4 and 22 (c).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23), chap. II, para. 8.

Annex I

Statement made by the Honourable Major-General Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji, on 16 June 1998

Ni sa bula vinaka! It is my privilege and honour to welcome all of you to Fiji. I welcome, in particular, members of the Committee, Secretariat, resource persons, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and non-governmental organizations, who will be participating in today's United Nations Pacific regional seminar on decolonization.

I add a special welcome to representatives of the administering Powers. We recognize them here as very important partners in the process of granting self-determination to peoples living in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Your presence today indicates your commitment and desire to cooperate fully and work together with the Special Committee in discharging its mandate. We have a joint interest in working together with the Special Committee of 24 in guiding the people of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories to full nationhood in full accord with their freely expressed wishes and aspirations.

We have welcomed you here to Fiji with a full Fijian traditional ceremony of welcome by the chief and people of Nawaka in Nadi. It is a solemn ritual that is part and parcel of the culture and way of life of the indigenous people of Fiji. Such a ceremony of welcome is performed only for visiting dignitaries and VIPs. It is the sincere hope of my Government that the significance of such a ceremony will not be lost on the international community as the United Nations struggles to accommodate the aspirations of indigenous peoples.

My Government is a firm believer in the protection, promotion and enhancement of the rights of indigenous peoples. While we note some progress being achieved in Geneva in the deliberations of officials towards a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 1997, more needs to be done to ensure the protection of indigenous peoples the world over. In this regard, Fiji supports the call for a Convention rather than a declaration, as the former would have more teeth in the promotion of the interests of indigenous peoples.

We have been an active participant and supporter of the Special Committee's work in the decolonization process since October 1970, when we joined the United Nations. Fiji believed then, and now, that the only test of success in the Committee's work can be measured by the number of Territories that have been able to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960. That is, the more Non-Self-Governing Territories that gain full nationhood through independence, or autonomy in free association with their former administering Powers, the more effective and successful the Special Committee is in the discharge of its mandate.

I understand that the Special Committee is mandated, by General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 1988, to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000, which is barely 18 months away. It is important to take stock of what has been achieved to date and for the Special Committee to proceed with haste in ensuring that those Territories which are in a position to exercise their right to self-determination do so as quickly as possible. The sad reality, however, is that the programme of action under the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism has been slow.

My Government notes with some pride recent developments in the Tokelau Islands, where the administering authority concerned is engaged in an enlightened and commendable effort to reconcile the harsh economic reality of the territory with the aspiration of Tokelauans.

Fiji, as a member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the South Pacific Forum, has always been interested in the development of our neighbour, New Caledonia. The recent developments in New Caledonia, where the indigenous peoples, the Kanaks, have entered into an accord with the French authorities, which would be the blueprint for nationhood, is also to be warmly welcomed. Such a development, where the indigenous peoples have been fully consulted and allowed a direct role in the decision on their future, is consistent with the commitment of the South Pacific Forum to see the early exercise of self-determination by peoples in the Territory in accordance with their freely expressed wishes.

My Government believes that, as the Special Committee is dedicated to eradicating colonialism, the international community focus should go beyond decolonization or the mere granting of sovereign independence, free association or integration with other former Territories. The Special Committee and the

international community are morally and legally obliged to ensure that the vulnerability of small Territories are reduced, national capacities developed and increased, sustainable development plans implemented, equitable economic growth promoted, and human and natural resources utilized for the overall betterment of the peoples in their Territories. That is, the Territories should not be freed politically only to find that they are economically vulnerable and subject to other new forms of colonialism. Political independence or autonomy must be underpinned by a sound foundation for sustained economic development and growth. It is in this regard that I find the agenda of this seminar very interesting.

The choice of issues for discussion range from problems of small structurally open economies with limited resources, the impact of drug trafficking and money-laundering, effects of emigration and migration on human resources within territories, the role of specialized agencies and international organizations, global warming, sustainable development and Agenda 21, the effect of the Law of the Sea on Non-Self-Governing Territories to the preservation and protection of marine resources. Undoubtedly all these offer participants a rare challenge of focusing on ways and means of alleviating the problems of emerging territories.

In the absence of visiting missions, therefore, this seminar provides everyone with the opportunity to not only find out the wishes of the peoples in Territories, but also to be fully aware of the problems that lie ahead after the local people have exercised their right to self-determination.

We look forward to the benefit of your deliberations.

It is with great pleasure that I declare open this United Nations Pacific regional seminar.

Annex II

Statement made by Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, on 16 June 1998

Allow me first to thank the host of our seminar, the Government and people of Fiji, for the traditional Fijian ceremonies of welcome to which we have just been treated. It gives me great pleasure to be here today on the occasion of the holding of the Pacific regional seminar of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held in accordance with the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

It is most gratifying for the delegation of the Special Committee to welcome His Excellency, the Honourable Major-General Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, to this seminar. On behalf of the delegation of the Special Committee, I wish to thank you, Your Excellency, for having found the time in your busy schedule, to honour us with your presence here today. Your being here amply demonstrates the importance you and your country attach to the question of decolonization. As an active and devoted member of the Special Committee, Fiji has consistently supported the right to self-determination and has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Special Committee of 24 and its efforts towards the full implementation of its mandate.

On behalf of the delegation of the Special Committee and on behalf of the seminar, I also wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji for his important address. We have listened with great interest to his words. They reflect the profound commitment of the Government and people of Fiji to the cause of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and more generally, to the fundamental principles of justice, equal rights and self-determination of peoples which the United Nations has pledged to uphold.

I am heartened by the generous welcome the Government and people of Fiji have extended to the Special Committee of 24 and the United Nations Secretariat, as well as to all participants and guests attending the seminar. I should like to express, on behalf of the Special Committee, and on behalf of all the participants in this seminar our sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Fiji for having invited us to hold this regional seminar in their beautiful country.

I am most delighted to see a number of representatives of Member States, administering Powers, Non-Self-Governing Territories, a regional organization, non-governmental organizations, special guests, observers, United Nations programmes and the specialized agencies.

This seminar is being held pursuant to a decision of the General Assembly in 1991, by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to hold seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, in order to review the progress achieved in the plan of action aimed at ushering in a world free from colonialism, in the twenty-first century. The seminar will assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in particular, their constitutional evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000. It will also examine in what ways the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, as well as the international community as a whole, can strengthen and increase their support and assistance to the Territories in order to enable them to enhance their standard of living and promote their self-sufficiency.

We are privileged to have several individuals, elected officials and organizations from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and look forward to listening to them and learning from them about the present situation in the Territories, what options for the future are being developed and what their needs are for international aid. Just a few days ago, at United Nations Headquarters, on the occasion of the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the peoples of all colonial Territories fighting for freedom, independence and human rights, I stated that the observance of the Week of Solidarity was an occasion to let the peoples of all colonial Territories know that their cause had not been forgotten, that their efforts to build a better future for themselves and to resolve the problems they face would find in the United Nations and particularly in the Special Committee, support and assistance and a forum where their voices may be heard. We are pleased that this seminar will provide us with a useful opportunity to hear from the peoples in the Territories and exchange views on the issues that are important to them.

We also wish to tap the collective wisdom of experts and activists attending this seminar who can provide us their ideas about initiatives and activities that should be set in motion to speed up the process of decolonization. The successes in decolonization of the past decade should inspire and encourage our efforts. We recognize the need for greater and more determined efforts in the area of decolonization, as well as for flexibility, realism and imagination in finding practical and new solutions to the problems confronting the peoples in the Territories. We hope that this seminar will strengthen our cooperation and coordination for concerted action to bring about the end of colonialism.

We also have amongst us Member States and two administering Powers. The presence of the administering Powers is particularly important for the work of the Special Committee. The General Assembly has called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of its inhabitants. The Special Committee is of the view that the support and cooperation of the administering Powers is indispensable for progress of the Territories towards self-determination.

The 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories deserve the utmost attention and priority consideration by the United Nations. The Special Committee will strive to ensure that the principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirmed in the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, continue to guide and inspire the work of the United Nations on decolonization, with a greater sense of urgency as we approach a new millennium. The Committee will also continue to be motivated and guided by the objectives of the International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism. In this regard, the Committee will endeavour to ensure that the issue of decolonization remains on the agenda of the General Assembly as one of its most important political issues and one which demands the commitment of individual and collective efforts by Member States, administering Powers, the specialized agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society at large.

In our discussions, we should keep in mind that the decolonization process has entered the final phase in a world that is changing rapidly and is profoundly influenced by the challenges of globalization and international economic integration. People all over the world are demanding equity, justice and participation in the decisions that affect their daily lives, their well-being, their futures. These are basic aspirations that cannot be achieved if people are denied the opportunity to exercise control over their destiny. One of the fundamental goals of self-determination is to enable the people to prepare themselves to participate fully in their own political and socio-economic development, as well as to maintain and safeguard their cultural life, protect and enjoy their natural resources, their environment and ensure a better future for their children.

From this perspective, the situation of the small island Territories deserves particular attention. Small island Territories constitute the majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Like small island developing States, they are a special case for both environment and development because they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable, and because they face particular constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. They are vulnerable to global climate change, and to the likelihood that the accompanying rise in the sea level will have severe and negative effects on the environment, biological diversity, economy and infrastructures and on the health and welfare of their peoples.

Over the years, the General Assembly has reiterated that inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying the exercise of the right to self-determination. The Special Committee stands fully by those principles, but is aware of the necessity to adopt new and innovative approaches to bring about a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Special Committee has consistently reiterated that there is no alternative to the exercise of the right to self-determination, as long as it is exercised by the people via popular consultations and is freely expressed. In our deliberations we will examine the options of self-determination available to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and will seek your recommendations as to how the United Nations system of organizations can best assist them to enable them to choose freely among those options.

I wish to reiterate to all of you participating in this seminar that the Special Committee will continue to follow closely developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and to make recommendations on the progress and extent of its implementation and, more importantly, to make recommendations on concrete ways to help them to achieve the goal set by the General Assembly to put an end to colonialism by the year 2000.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I wish to thank all of you for participating in this seminar. I am convinced that your ideas, energy and commitment will enrich our deliberations and will translate into thoughtful assessments and recommendations for future concerted action in the context of the plan adopted by the General Assembly for the elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism as we enter the new millennium.

Annex III

Message from the Secretary-General to the seminar

At the outset of your deliberations, I should like to send my personal greetings to all the Member States, intergovernmental organizations, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, non-governmental organizations and observers participating in the United Nations Pacific regional seminar on Non-Self-Governing Territories organized by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The seminar provides the Special Committee with a unique opportunity not only to examine the progress made in the implementation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations with regard to Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, but also to prepare for the future, through devising strategies to support the political, economic and social advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their quest for self-determination.

I am confident that the distinguished participants in the seminar will have much to contribute to the discussion, given their knowledge of the issues that are of vital importance to the peoples of the Territories and the problems that they must confront. The Special Committee is particularly privileged to have established important direct contacts with the peoples of the Territories whose presence in this forum allows the international community to gain first-hand knowledge of the wishes of the Territories as regards their future.

This seminar is one of the activities mandated by the General Assembly as part of its plan of action to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000. As we reach the final year of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, we must redouble our efforts and see this process to its conclusion. In this fiftieth anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I should also like to recall the centrality of human rights to the struggle for independence. Ultimately, the struggle for independence, for self-rule for the right of people to be masters of their own destiny, is the struggle for human rights.

Ensuring that the peoples of all Non-Self-Governing Territories are able to exercise freely their inalienable right to self-determination is a solemn obligation and our shared duty. Accomplishing the aims of the Declaration and the plan of action to eradicate colonialism will require the firm commitment of the international community, particularly regarding assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and other international organizations, and the full participation of the administering Powers. Cooperation and concerted action are essential to bring about the realization of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories.

In wishing the Pacific regional seminar every success in its deliberations, I should like to note with special appreciation the generous hospitality of the Government and people of Fiji in hosting this seminar.

Annex IV

Statement made by the Honourable Berenado Vunibobo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Republic of Fiji, on 18 June 1998

When our Permanent Representative to the United Nations discussed with me the possibility of Fiji hosting the Pacific regional seminar in 1998, I was more than pleased and therefore advised him to take up the offer, because it provides an opportunity for a country such as mine to impress upon the United Nations Special Committee, administering Powers and representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories our perception on a number of international issues concerning decolonization.

It was for this reason that Fiji hosted this important seminar of the United Nations Special Committee, bearing in mind that regional seminars have become the only available means for the Committee to ascertain the views and wishes of peoples living in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The discussions generated from the papers provided by resource persons have been indicative of the high level of interest which participants have in the issues before the Committee. In that regard, we have benefited from the information and subsequent discussions on the problems of relating to the exercise of self-determination.

Due to my other commitments with the ACP Council of Ministers meeting, which was taking place simultaneously with the seminar, I was not able to attend all your deliberations. However, I recall vividly that, in my days as a former Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, I always found the discussions and negotiations of the Special Committee not only very interesting, but something close to my heart, bearing in mind Fiji's colonial past.

As we come to the end of the seminar, I look forward to seeing the conclusions arrived at after the three days of deliberation. In my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, your conclusions will be a guide to my Government in terms of how Fiji ought to participate in the future proceedings of the Special Committee.

With the decade to eradicate colonialism drawing to a close, it is incumbent on all members of the international community, particularly the administering Powers, to take an active and participatory role in the deliberations of the Special Committee so that the fate of the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories is known before the end of year 2000.

In passing, I note that the United Nations is undergoing reform to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency. It is my sincere hope that the internal rearrangement of the Decolonization Unit in a new Department within the Organization will not be reflective of the attempt by administering Powers to undermine the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 1988, which called for an end to colonialism by the end of the decade. I also hope that the financial crisis of the Organization will not be used as a pretext by administering Powers to avoid their legal ob''gations under the Charter. I believe that we should resist any effort by the administering Powers to reduce the efficacy of the Special Committee or the United Nations in its efforts to eradicate colonialism.

In his address, the Honourable Prime Minister touched on the need for the process of decolonization not to be seen as a means to an end. I believe that we should invite the Special Committee and international community to take steps to ensure that the options available to Territories would be to guarantee their national sovereignty, security and

economic viability. The world we live in is getting smaller and smaller and it is imperative that we realize how interdependent we are today.

Due to their size, most of these Territories are not endowed with natural resources and are subject to regular natural disasters, global warming, desalination of water sources, dependency on few commodities and a high level of emigration.

I will conclude by reminding all participants that, as we rise today, more hard work needs to be done by all members of the Special Committee, administering Powers, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and non-governmental organizations in order to ensure that there are tangible results from seminars such as this. We must be committed, but equally realistic, to the mandate of the Special Committee to seeing it achieved in the end, as we have a duty to see that peoples living in Non-Self-Governing Territories achieve their self-determination.

Once again, on behalf of the people and Government of Fiji, may I wish you all the best in the days ahead and bon voyage to your respective destinations.

Annex V

List of participants

A. Official delegation of the Special Committee of 24

Cuba	H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations and Acting Chairman of the Special Committee
Antigua and Barbuda	H.E. Dr. Patrick Albert Lewis Member of the Special Committee
China	H.E. Mr. Shen Guofang Member of the Special Committee
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué Member of the Special Committee
Papua New Guinea	Mr. Jimmy Ovia Member of the Special Committee
Syrian Arab Republic	Dr. Fayssal Mekdad Rapporteur of the Special Committee

B. States Members of the United Nations

Argentina	Mrs. Silvia Merega
Australia	Mr. Brett Aldam
Chile*	Mr. Juan Eduardo Eguiguren
Fiji*	H.E. Mr. Poseci W. Bune
Indonesia*	Mr. Tito dos Santos Baptista Mr. Filomeno de Jesus Hornay
Malaysia	H.E. Mr. Mohd. Takwir Hj. Mohd. Din Mr. Mohd Azhar Mazlan
Spain	Mr. D. Agustín Santos Maraver

C. Administering Powers

New Zealand	Mr. Lindsay Watt
Portugal	Mr. José Manuel Santos Braga

* Member of the Special Committee

D. Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Mr. Tauese F. Sunia
East Timor	Mr. Agio Pereira Mr. Joao Carrascalao
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Hon. Mrs. Norma Edwards
Guam	Mr. Ronald F. Rivera
New Caledonia	Mr. Rock Wamytan Mr. Jimmy Naouna Ms. Matcha Iboudghacem Mr. Oscar Temaru Mr. Gabriel Tetiarahi
Tokelau	Mr. Lindsay Watt
Turks and Caicos Islands	Mr. Staven Rigby
United States Virgin Islands	Dr. Carlyle Corbin Ms. Moana Sinclair

E. Special guests

Dr. Ahmed Ali (Fiji)
Mr. José A. Cousiño (Chile)
Mr. Viktor Kaisiepo (Fiji)
Mr. Nic Maclellan (Fiji)
Professor Asesela Ravuvu (Fiji)
Mr. Lopeti Senituli (Fiji)

F. Non-governmental organizations

Agence Kanak de Developpement (New Caledonia)	Mr. Sarmin Jacques Boengkih
Commission on Decolonization (Guam)	Mr. Chris P. Howard
Council of Churches (Fiji)	Mr. Robert Nicole
National Council of Women (Fiji)	Ms. Titilia Naitini
Organization of People for Indigenous Rights (Guam)	Mr. Rufo Lujan
Pacific Conference of Churches (Fiji)	Senator Paula Sotutu
Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (Fiji)	Mr. Kekuni Blaisdell
Pacific Regional Young Women's Christian Association (Fiji)	Ms. Amelia Rokotuivuna
Student Government Association (Guam)	Mr. Howard Hemsing
Young Women's Christian Association (Fiji)	Ms. Amelia Rokotuivuna

G. Intergovernmental organizations

South Pacific Forum	Ms. Monique Fienberg

H. Observer

Mr. Alejandro Betts

I. United Nations programme and specialized agencies

United Nations Development Programme	Mr. Romulo Garcia

J. Host Country

Mr. Sakiusa Rabuka
Mrs. Lailun Khan
Ms. Alafina Vuki

Annex VI

Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met from 16 to 18 June 1998 at Nadi for the purpose of assessing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their political evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000,

Having heard the important statement by His Excellency the Honourable Major-General Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Fiji for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants and observer throughout their stay in Fiji.